

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186316

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, CVIS, PFOR, UR, US (DRINAN, ROBERT F.)

SUBJECT: SOVIET VISA APPLICATION BY CONGRESSMAN DRINAN

1. CONGRESSMAN DRINAN HAS APPLIED FOR VISA TO VISIT USSR AUGUST 14 THROUGH 24 WITH GROUP OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS TRAVELING UNDER INTOURIST ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT IN 1973 SOVIET GOVERNMENT REFUSED HIM A VISA, BUT IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENT AND AMEMBASSY, SOVIETS SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THAT ANY FURTHER VISA APPLICATION BY DRINAN WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. HE DID NOT RE-APPLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER.

2. AUGUST 5 DEPTOFF PHONED SOVEMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION TO EXPRESS DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN CASE. SOVIET CONSOFF SAID CASE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT HE WAS NOT CONFIDENT VISA WOULD BE AUTHORIZED. SOVIET CONSOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PURPOSE OF CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT WAS SAME AS IN 1973 - "TO STIR UP QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWRY, MEDDLE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND BEHAVE IN A WAY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONS."

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3. AUGUST 6 CONGRESSMAN PHONED EMBASSY AND MADE CLEAR THAT

HE EXPECTED DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO
ENSURE THAT VISA IS GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSURANCES
HE BELIEVES HE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT AND SOVIETS IN 1973.

4. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO RAISE CASE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY AT
POLITICAL LEVEL. KISSINGER

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